

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The acreage, production, and value statistics in this publication are the official State and USDA estimates prepared by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Florida Field Office in cooperation with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS). These estimates are current as of September 2017 and may be revised later in the year or in the following year, if additional data become available. Any revisions made to these estimates, as well as estimates made after September 2017, are included in reports posted to the website shown below and available from the NASS Florida Field Office.

Most of the data used to develop these estimates were provided voluntarily by growers, shippers, and processors and we sincerely appreciate their public spirited cooperation. The Florida Tomato Committee, the Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association, Florida Department of Citrus, floriculture and nursery producers, sales agencies, and transportation firms have provided valuable assistance and data throughout the season. The FDACS Bureau of State Farmers Markets and the County Agricultural Agents of the University of Florida Cooperative Extension Service were also very helpful in supplying area and county estimates.

The individuals and organizations who make up the Florida agricultural industry need reliable and accurate estimates of production to make informed and knowledgeable decisions. Increasing unpredictability of commodity prices and competition from global markets, make accurate and unbiased estimates even more important. Farmers, agribusinesses, producers groups, educators, researchers, legislators and the media all need these estimates to develop sound policies and to promote Florida agricultural products.

I want to express my sincere gratitude to our dedicated staff of statisticians, support personnel, citrus field staff, and field and telephone enumerators. They are the ones who have worked hard to collect, review, and summarize these important data and publish the results.

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